How One Tolerated Sin Stops the Work of God

If you have lived for years in this sin — justifying under-the-table work or tax evasion — and the church you belong to has not only failed to rebuke you, but has tolerated or even turned a blind eye to this practice, it is a serious sign that it too is in a state of spiritual erring and death.

Such a church does not reflect the righteousness that characterizes the Kingdom of God, but has lowered the standard of holiness to human conventions. The Church was not given to validate sin, but to shape righteous character aligned with God's truth. Its purpose is to bring people to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, the Righteous One — not to offer comfort in wickedness.

The true Church does not lower the standard, but raises it — calling every soul to transformation, purity, and responsibility. It is not content with religious appearances; it seeks perfection in Christ, who is the supreme model of righteousness. Scripture says that God's servants have the duty to watch over the souls entrusted to them (Hebrews 13:17), and this watchfulness includes refusing to tolerate sin.

When the church no longer rebukes sin but tolerates it, she betrays her divine mandate and becomes complicit in the wandering of souls. When a community of believers silently accepts obvious sins such as financial fraud or tax deception, it becomes a participant in them. Silence is not neutrality — it is tacit approval.

Such a church, lacking the courage to speak the truth, failing to rebuke sin and call to repentance, is a lifeless church. Even if religious activities continue — songs are sung, sermons are preached — if the Holy Spirit is not working holiness and transformation, that church is dead. And those who are part of such a congregation are dead members — physically present, but separated from the life that comes from Christ.

This condition is similar to that of Israel in Joshua chapter 7, when God withdrew His presence from their midst because of Achan's hidden sin. Though they were called to conquer the promised land, they were defeated by a weak enemy, and God said: "Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you" (Joshua 7:12).

This was not merely discipline — it was a clear withdrawal of the divine presence. God was no longer there — He no longer fought for them, no longer blessed their work — until the sin was exposed, confessed, and removed. This verse emphasizes that God's presence cannot coexist with tolerated or hidden sin. He not only withdraws, but warns that He will not be with His people until the sin is completely removed.

The true Church of Christ is alive, pure, and watches with holy discernment over sin, no matter how accepted it may be in society. She does not conform to the world, but to the Word. If the church you belong to does not do this — if it tolerates sin and does not live in the light — do not delay the decision. God calls you today to come out, to separate yourself, to choose purity and align yourself with His standard of righteousness. Listen to His voice and step onto the path of holiness — He promises He will receive you.

Scripture is clear on this point. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 6:17–18: “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

This call is not to isolation, but to holy separation. It is not an invitation to judgment, but to purity and loyalty to God. When a community refuses to repent and persists in tolerating sin, the one who hungers for righteousness is called to separate — not out of pride, but out of obedience.

Scripture warns us not to unite with those who live in such sins: “But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him’” (Psalm 50:16–18). Remaining in such a context — without testimony and without struggle — means becoming part of a body without life, without God’s presence.

Separating from injustice is sometimes painful, but it is the only path to true fellowship with God. He promises to receive those who choose holiness, even at the cost of breaking from what is familiar. The true Church is made up of those who choose to live in the light, even when darkness is the majority.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “Life Lived in the Righteousness of Christ”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.